



## Holy Family Catholic Church

Parish Priest  
Fr. Jean-Laurent Marie

The Presbytery, Oxlow Lane, Dagenham, Essex, RM9 5XJ

Tel: (020) 8592 1634 Charity Number: 234092

Email: [dagenhamhf@brcdt.org](mailto:dagenhamhf@brcdt.org)

St Joseph's Primary School, Connor Road

Tel: (020) 8270 6480

All Saints Comprehensive School, Terling Road

Tel: (020) 8270 4242

Reconciliation: Sat, 5:15–5:45pm – Baptisms and Weddings by appointment

Livestream available via the parish website on

<https://www.holyfamilychurchdagenham.org/mass-stream.php>

### 17<sup>th</sup> December, Third Sunday of Advent - B

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

*The figure and mission of 'the One who is to come' becomes clearer as the Baptist gives witness to him. God's justice, his faithfulness to his own promises, is already at work; it will be as clear as day in Christ. For that reason, we of all people should know how to rejoice and be happy*

### 24<sup>th</sup> December, Fourth Sunday Advent - B

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16

Romans 16: 25-27

Luke 1: 26-38

*Mary becomes, in a way that not even the prophets could have fully suspected, the 'House of God'. In faithfulness to his promises, God not only draws near to his people, he identifies himself with them. This Good News is given to us to be shared with everyone through our lives and example.*

### 31<sup>st</sup> December, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - B

Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6

Colossians 3: 12-21

Luke 2: 22-40

*The strange figure of John the Baptist is placed before us; yet he is the beginning of the 'Good News', the source of consolation for God's people, because his work prepares us for the work of Christ. The root of our consolation lies in the fact that God is faithful to his word and his promises.*

## Dear Friends,

Gaudete.....Rejoice, for Emmanuel "God is with us". Joy in the birth of Jesus is the gift of the Holy Spirit, a real and special blessing of Christmas. We started our spiritual preparation for Christmas with a beautiful 40 hours of prayer and adoration at the beginning of Advent, travelling rapidly through the four weeks of the Advent season to the celebration of the birth of the Saviour of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas.

Tradition demands that we mark this important moment of our salvation with Christmas carols, nativity plays, exchanging gifts and presents, minced pies and mulled wine, Christmas greeting cards, Christmas turkey dinners and gatherings of families and friends, but above all we are invited to receive the newborn baby Jesus into our hearts in the Word made flesh in the Eucharist at Holy Communion on Christmas day Mass. It is here at Christmas mass with all the hopes and joys of mankind is met and realised on Christmas day. Let us hasten to join the shepherds, the ox and donkey, Joseph and Mary as at the first Christmas to behold Jesus, Emmanuel God With Us.

## ***Solemn Blessing of Christmas***

May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night (day), drive far from you the darkness of vice, and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

### **R. Amen**

May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel.

### **R. Amen**

And may God, who by the incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

### **R. Amen**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

### **R. Amen**

#### **Pray for the members of our parish community who are ill or unable to come to Mass especially:**

<i>Fr. John McKeon</i>	<i>Mary Ware</i>	<i>Danny O'Sullivan</i>	<i>Yvonne Falvey</i>	<i>Thomas Walsh</i>
<i>Pauline Egbunike</i>	<i>Maureen Bushell</i>	<i>John Connors</i>	<i>Ibiron Ayool</i>	<i>Myla Lebersidge</i>
<i>Mark Paton</i>	<i>Olive Edgar</i>	<i>Catherine Watkins</i>	<i>Andy Gallagher</i>	<i>Tony Leahy</i>
<i>Mary Wallace</i>	<i>Denis O'Flaherty</i>	<i>Amanda Shpati</i>	<i>Teresa Power</i>	<i>Daniel Mahoney</i>
<i>Karen Lloyd</i>	<i>Paul Buckley</i>			

#### **REGISTRATION FORMS**

If you are new to the parish or have not yet registered, please fill in a parish registration form and hand it in to presbytery office.

#### **eNEWSLETTER**

To help reduce our carbon footprint, copies of the newsletter are now available on our parish website, [www.holyfamilychurchdagenham.org](http://www.holyfamilychurchdagenham.org)

Unfortunately, at the moment, the newsletter cannot be accessed via iPhone.

We will keep you updated with any future development.

#### **PARISH COUNSELLOR**

One of our parishioners is a trained counsellor and wishes to offer their services to members of Holy Family Catholic Church.

If you want a confidential and safe environment to explore your anxieties, fears and coping strategies or if you want to increase your self-awareness, please contact Fr Jean-Laurent for further information.

#### **JOB VACANCIES**

There are number of vacancies throughout the diocese, please see the notices in the church porch.

## **THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY**

The Universe Catholic Weekly Online and print edition Newspaper, is true to its mission of being “a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it” keeping Catholics informed about their faith.

If you are interested in our Digital Subscription Offer or the PRINT EDITION, call Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email:

[michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk) Prices for Digital are as follows: 3 months Digital subscription - £20; 6 months Digital subscription - £40 or 12 months Digital subscription - £140.

Prices for Print edition are as follows: 3 months Print subscription - £42 or 12 months Print subscription £140.

## **ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

The Advent Reconciliation Service will be held on Thursday 21st December at 6:30pm. There will be a number of priests available to hear confessions.

## **CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

All collections at Christmas Masses are your personal gifts to your Parish Priest.

## **THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP**

A missionary from Bethlehem, The Holy Land, will visit us again on the weekend 16th - 17th December to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood to help and support the poor Christian families, any help you could give to them will be highly appreciated.

## **WALK WITH ME**

The popular Walk With Me books for Advent are available from the repository at £1.00 each. There are also a number of Christmas items for sale.

## **CHRISTMAS CARD**

Please take one Advent/Christmas card per household. This contains all the Mass times taking place over Christmas and New Year.

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM STAFF & TRUSTEES OF BCCS**

We would like to wish everyone across Brentwood Diocese a very happy and blessed Christmas. As we prepare to celebrate our 40th year in 2024, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our work by making a donation at one of the parish crib scenes across the Diocese since the charity was formed. This steadfast support has allowed us to give hope to thousands of children, young people and families by offering them the specialist care they need. Thank you all.

## **CHRISTMAS CRIB**

All money collected throughout the Christmas season until 2nd February will be donated to Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS).

This is to provide specialist help for vulnerable children in difficult circumstances.

## **NEWHAM DEANERY DAY OF RECOLLECTION**

'The New Year - Praying for Peace with Our Lady' led by Fr. Stewart Foster on Saturday 30th December at Our Lady of Compassion Church, Upton Park E13 9BF : Mass at 9.15am, talk in the hall, Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction ending at 3pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

## **HELP WITH CHRISTMAS MASSES**

We are still looking for volunteers to help during the Masses over the Christmas period, especially Welcomers. Please see the sign up sheets at the back of the Church. Any help is greatly appreciated.

## **CHURCH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

Thank you to everybody who have returned their raffle tickets and monies. This is a very major part of our fund raising effort for the parish. Your generosity is very much appreciated. The draw will take place Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December after 11:00am Mass.

## **THANK YOU**

Fr Jean-Laurent would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have volunteered their services throughout the year:

Choir; catechists; cleaners; readers; altar servers; flower arrangers; repository helpers; extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist; bidding prayer compiler; presbytery office; welcomers; ushers; gardeners; IT specialists; and for all who helped in any way.

A very Happy Christmas to each and every one of you.

## **HOLY FAMILY MASSES**

The schedule of masses for the current week is available to view under the schedule tab of the live stream video page on the parish website.

For further dates, visit [www.churchservices.tv/dagenham](http://www.churchservices.tv/dagenham) and scroll down to the schedule section. You can visit either of these pages to see regularly updated mass times and any changes. This can be viewed on all computers and mobile devices.

## **ALTAR SERVERS' REHEARSAL**

There will be a rehearsal meeting on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2:00pm to 4:00pm and 'the big clean up' on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00am will be St Stephens Day altar servers Mass. It is hoped that medals will be available to present to our altar servers who have completed 10 years.

## **HOLY FAMILY PATRONAL FEAST DAY**

We are happy to announce that the statue of The Holy Family positioned in the Holy Family chapel will be blessed on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December at both Masses.

## **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

A polite reminder that The Epiphany, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January is a Holy Day of Obligation.

## READERS FOR MASS

Sat 16th Dec	6:00pm	Peter Roberts & Caroline Van Der Steen
Sun 17th Dec	9:00am	Nathalie Duncan & Ada Osigwe
	11:00am	Ann Mushumbusi & Clare Nwachukwu
Sat 23rd Dec	6:00pm	Anne Carroll & Marian Fitzgerald
Sun 24th Dec	9:00am	Philippa Ademuyiwa & Ngozi Onodugo
	11:00am	Nana Osei-Minkah & Jennifer Muiru
Sat 30th Dec	6:00pm	Caroline Van Der Steen & Anne Carroll
Sun 31st Dec	9:00am	Annette O'Donoghue & Pamela Anike
	11:00am	Veronica Obi & Grace Muiru
Sat 6th Jan	6:00pm	Daniel Hughes & Peter Roberts
Sun 7th Jan	9:00am	Alfonse Gabriel & Pamela Anike
	11:00am	Clare Nwachukwu & Valentine Okolo

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR MASS

Sat 16th Dec	6:00pm	Marian Fitzgerald
Sun 17th Dec	9:00am	Teresa Onyemah
	11:00am	Veronica Obi
Sat 23rd Dec	6:00pm	Caroline Van Der Steen
Sun 24th Dec	9:00am	Innocent Ileke
	11:00am	Nora Bell
Sat 30th Dec	6:00pm	Catherine Ahorituwere
Sun 31st Dec	9:00am	Estalita Maduli
	11:00am	Nkem Okoli
Sat 6th Jan	6:00pm	Marian Fitzgerald
Sun 7th Jan	9:00am	Estalita Maduli
	11:00am	Augusta Egualeon

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Will all readers and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist please inform the welcomers that you are present for your scheduled Mass.

Readers are to make themselves present at the back of the Church after the opening prayer in order to process to the altar together.

## SAHARA DESERT RETREAT IN MOROCCO

26th February – 11th March 2024. Including a day visiting Marrakesh and 9 full days in the Desert. With Fr Arnaud and Deacon Vladimir from St Antony's in Forest Gate. Designed for young adults, open to all adults able to hike 4 to 6 hours a day for 9 full days in the desert. £952 (plus flight). Visit the website [www.desert-retreat.com](http://www.desert-retreat.com) or phone Catherine at 07807 348223.

## FATHER JOHN McKEON

Please continue to hold Fr John McKeon in your prayers, who is ill in hospital and undergoing tests.

## CHURCH PROGRAMMES

**First Holy Communion/CALIYP 23/24** The next session will start on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 10:00am in the Church. Your Mass will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00am. All sessions are mandatory and must be attended on time.

**RCIA** If you wish to find out more about the Catholic faith or wish to become a baptized/confirmed member of the Church do feel free to join the RCIA programme which takes place in the presbytery meeting room every Tuesday at 7:30pm. **Term time only.**

**Confirmation Programme 23/24** The next meeting will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 2:30pm. Your Mass will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 9:00am. All sessions are mandatory and must be attended on time.

**Baptism Course** The next course will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7:00pm please email the presbytery office before 21<sup>st</sup> February if you are interested in attending. All sessions must be attended.

**Bible Study Group** Meet every Wednesday at 7:30pm in the presbytery meeting room. **Term time only.**

**Something for our young parishioners to colour in over Christmas**





# Mass Intentions

## Third Sunday of Advent - B

<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	6:00pm	People of the Parish	
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9:00am	Paul Agwanihu (RIP)	Donor Intentions
	11:00am	Elena D Paraiso (RIP)	Barroga Family

### Feria

<b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9:00am	Donor Intention	
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### Feria

<b>Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9:00am	Brita Goraj & Family (Christmas Mass)	A Shpati
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### Feria

<b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9:30am	End of Term Mass – Thanksgiving	Dani & Maduli Family
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### Feria

<b>Thu 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	9:00am	Daniel Mahoney	Mahoney Family
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### Feria

<b>Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	9:00am	Judy & Malcom (Christmas Mass)	A Shpati
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### Feria

<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	9:00am	Donor Intention	
	4:45pm	Holy Hour with Exposition	
	5:45pm	Benediction	

## Fourth Sunday of Advent - B

<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	6:00pm	Eddie Fitzgerald (RIP)	J Xavier-Smalll
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9:00am	Thanksgiving	Dani & Maduli Family
	11:00am	Marian Fitzgerald (Christmas Mass)	A Shpati

## The Nativity of the Lord

<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	6:00pm	People of the Parish	
	9:00pm	Georges & Raymonde (RIP)	

## Christmas Day

<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9:00am	Paul Agwanihu (RIP)	
	11:00am	Louis & Eddie (RIP)	

## St Stephen, The First Martyr

<b>Tue 26<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	11:00am	John & Anne Carroll (Christmas Mass)	A Shpati
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## St John, Ap, Evangelist

<b>Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10:00am	Kevil Jacob (RIP)	
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## The Holy Innocents, Mm

<b>Thu 28<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10:00am	Florence Echendu (RIP)	Anteyi Family
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## St Thomas of Canterbury, Bp, M

<b>Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10:00am	Sebastiao Freitas	Manuela
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## Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas

<b>Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9:00am	Holy Hour	
	10:00am	People of the Parish	

## Feast of The Holy Family - B

<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	6:00pm	Jimmy Haywood (RIP)	Haywood Family
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	9:00am	Eddie Fitzgerald (RIP)	M Fitzgerald
	11:00am	Josephine Omatsuli (RIP)	Family

## Mary, Mother of God

<b>Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	11:00am	Georges Laricourt (RIP)	Family
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## SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bpp, Dd

<b>Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan</b>	9:00am	Magna Hale (RIP)	Family
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### Feria

<b>Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b>	9:00am	Marjana Bzheta & Family (Christmas Mass)	A Shpati
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### Feria

<b>Thu 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	9:00am	Kevil Jacob (RIP)	Family
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### Feria

<b>Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	9:00am	Daniel Mahoney	Mahoney Family
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### Feria

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	9:00am	Fr John McKeon	
	4:45pm	Holy Hour with Exposition	
	5:45pm	Benediction	

## The Epiphany of The Lord - B

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	6:00pm	Michael O'Sullivan (RIP)	D & M O'Sullivan
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	9:00am	People of the Parish	
	11:00am	Paul Agwanihu (RIP)	